

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 116 (11-11)

November 7, 2011

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Joppatowne High School beginning at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meeting Number 116 was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis. Members present were Paula Mullis, Doris Carey, Bob Frisch, Gloria Moon, Betty Byrne, Yvonne Baldwin, and JoAnn M. Macdonald. Council members absent were Vincent Rabenau, Ron Sollod and Jim B. Lyons, III. Chairperson Mullis gave a special welcome to Senator Nancy Jacobs and Sheriff Jesse Bane. It was moved by Betty Byrne and seconded by Gloria Moon that the October minutes be approved.

The Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Lieutenant Hugh John Dougherty said he did not have a report at this time. However, he did share some statistics concerning incidents in our community. He also shared a special brief from the Sheriff's office on protecting yourself while shopping. For example, citizens should avoid shopping alone, park in well-lit areas, avoid flashing cash and try not to carry too many packages. Also, keep vehicles locked. If something looks suspicious, contact security. If citizens would like a copy of the bulletin, call the Sheriff's office. Lt. Dougherty was thanked for his participation by the chair.

Paula Mullis shared an email regarding the proposed solid waste transfer station that she received from County Council President Billy Boniface; the email was copied to the Community Council Members and was in response to an invitation from Paula Mullis to Mr. Boniface to attend the Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council meeting. It was hoped that he would come to a local meeting and listen to issues that concern the community. Councilman Boniface wrote that he was unaware of the County Executive's definite plans concerning the waste transfer site. He stated that the administration can not move forward with anything until legislation is introduced to the Council to update and amend the Solid Waste Master Plan. He also stated that he would be glad to listen to community concerns about whatever is proposed but to do so beforehand would be premature. He will, however, try to attend the local council meeting in the near future.

Senator Nancy Jacobs was asked to give some insight into PlanMaryland. She said PlanMaryland will threaten property rights. She suggested that community members call the Governor, state senators

and delegates and tell them that you do not support PlanMaryland as currently written. November 9 is the last day for comments on the plan.

Community members stated that interested citizens should read PlanMaryland and get the facts. There are a lot of good things in the plan. The plan has much of what citizens requested. They believe that the plan saves taxpayers money.

Presentation – Master Plan – Gloria Moon

Gloria shared information that she suggested that the community look through and make comments concerning the Master Plan. She said that for the most part the plan is very good. She shared the following suggestions to make the plan better:

1. Retain the paragraph explaining the 2003 adoption of the Joppa-Joppatowne Community Plan (The Plan). This Council believes it is still a sound plan and should not be ignored.
2. The Joppa-Joppatowne Community Plan has different uses and designations for land inside the Development Envelope which were not used in the 2004 Master Plan. The Council wishes to return to The Plans designations.
3. The Council also desires a neighborhood Center which exists in part along Route 7 and Old Mountain Road South. The Joppa area is one of the few communities without an Activity Center for youth, seniors and all other residents. We believe this less intense neighborhood Center designation will highlight where the community desires it to be. (We note the addition of several large residential developments around the Neighborhood Center since The Plan was written.)
4. We feel the Industrial land use classification may be too intense for this area and will be working to revise and refresh the area to respect the wishes of the community.

Gloria was thanked for her excellent work on the Master Plan and for sharing her knowledge with the community.

Update on Waste Transfer Station

Former councilwoman Sue Heselton gave an update from community members who visited the proposed site of the Waste Transfer Station and gave an extensive definition as to what a waste transfer station must be. As a part of that definition, she stated that waste transfer stations are facilities where municipal solid waste is unloaded from collection vehicles and briefly held while it is reloaded onto larger long-distance transport vehicles for shipment to landfills or other

treatment or disposal facilities. By combining the loads of several individual waste collection trucks into a single shipment, communities can save money on the labor and operating costs of transporting the waste to a distant disposal site. They can also reduce the total number of vehicular trips traveling to and from the disposal site. However, waste sites can cause an increase in traffic in the immediate area where they are located. If not properly sited, designed and operated, they can cause problems for residents living near them.

Board of Education Update – Bob Frisch

Bob Frisch said that he has support on the Board to address concerns in the Joppatowne and Edgewood areas. He was asked to address concerns about the academic performance as well as the athletic facility by the PTA. He said that the new track at Joppatowne H.S. is almost done. Concerns were expressed because ADA compliance has not been adhered to. He would like community members to contact him if there are things that they are not satisfied with at the school. Sending pictures are also encouraged.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie.

Councilman Guthrie discussed many of the complications that involve the Waste Transfer Station. There is a lot of cost involved that the taxpayers may have to pick up. He is presently working on three bills and will share the draft bills with the council for input. Councilman Guthrie expressed concern about how appraisals are not required by the county. Property can be bought for any amount of money, and taxpayers have no say about purchases. At minimal there should be at least two appraisals. He also encouraged community members to continue to come to the County Council meetings and express their opinions.

Community Council Member Updates

JoAnn Macdonald shared information about the Homeland Security Program at Joppatowne H.S. She was tremendously impressed with information shared with her by a student who graduated from the program.

Paula Mullis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and encouraged them to continue to come and bring friends and neighbors. She also reminded everyone to turn clocks back and change batteries.

Gloria Moon encouraged anyone who is interested in meeting to discuss Dion's draft bills to email her.

Doris Carey mentioned that Harford Community College needs our help to get the Towson building back on track. Please take a minute to let our state officials know that you support the partnership between HCC and Towson University.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey